

# MINERALOGIA:

Or, An Account of the

## Extraordinary VIRTUES

AND

*Manifold Uses*

OF A

# Mineral Salt,

Both in Physic and Surgery,  
by Land and by Sea;

Which is so safe,

Pleasant and effectual in its Operation, that  
it may be taken by those of all Ages and  
Constitutions with great Benefit, and with  
out Danger of the least Prejudice.

The whole

Exemplified by the Testimony of several e-  
minent Physicians and Surgeons from  
their own Experience.

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The Fourth EDITION.

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By Edmund Packe, M. D.

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(Price Six-Pence.)

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TO THE  
READER.

**T**H E first Account of this *Salt* was published by my Father, Dr. CHR. PACKE, in that Memorable Year 1688: A second Edition of it came out in 1694, and a third Account was given of it in a Book he published in the Year 1708, entituled *Medela Chymica*. He was the Translator of *Glauber's* Works, and wrote several Tracts in *Physic* and *Chymistry*, of no little Use to the Age he liv'd in. His Skill in preparing Genuine, Spagyrical Medicines in deplorable Cases, especially his Probity and Judgement in administering them, and his undistinguish'd Humanity to Mankind were so well known and acknowledged by all that knew him, as they still are by his surviving Friends; that I may easily excuse my self the Province of delineating him in his full Character. All I shall say is, that I should be very glad to be carried with so good a one to my Grave.

As he would advance nothing but what he knew, or firmly believed to be Matter of Fact, concerning this or any other of his Medicines, so have I. Many more Virtues than are here enumerated, might justly be ascrib'd to this *Benign Salt*; but I forbear to put them in one View together, because those who ought to know better, have given the unthinking a Prejudice against any Medicine offer'd as useful in many Cases as *Quackish*, tho' it never was recommended (or is now) in any Case, but those  
wherein

To the READER.

wherein purging is necessary or proper : And as to its general Agreeableness to all Constitutions and Ages, I my self can answer for that ; having never observed nor heard of (after 24 Years intimate Acquaintance with the Use of it) the least Disadvantage attending any one Person from the taking it. In a Cure or two historis'd in the Tract, Mention is made of some other Medicines administred with the Salt, an Account of which has been published in *Medela Chymica*, which is now out of Print, and therefore with all Expedition shall be republished with Additions, that so many valuable Medicines may not be lost to the Republic of Physic, nor the Author's Expectation ungratefully frustrated, in committing the Promulgation of them to my Care and Industry.

I have received several Letters from His Majesty's Plantations abroad, commending the Virtues of this Salt in the Cure of many Distempers, peculiar to those Climes ; but especially the *Bloody-Flux*, in *Barbadoes*, *Jamaica*, *Antegoa*, *Maderas*, and other Parts, in which Case I am assured it has sav'd more Lives in Proportion to the Use of it, than any one Medicine yet known. I cannot but recommend it therefore to all who visit those Parts, as a comfortable Branch of Store. If carried in a Glass, it will preserve its Virtues unalterable to numberless Years.

I have only to add, That those who shall have occasion for *Chymical* or *Galenical* Medicines, may at any Time be faithfully furnished with them at my House, in *Southampton-street*, *Covent-Garden*.

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# *An Account of the Vertues and Use of Sal Solutivum,*

*Prepared only by Dr. Edmund Packe,  
at his House at the Golden-Head, in  
Southampton-Street Covent Garden.*

**A**FTER many years Experience of the vertues and worth of this Medicine, in helping and curing many Diseases, to which the Body of man is subject, which of late I have also much improved and exalted in its Vertues; I have determined at length for a Publick Benefit (and to excuse my self from Writing many Letters) to Publish the following Account of it.

I. It is a Salt prepared of Mineral Sub-  
jects, by apt Mediums purify'd and reconcil-  
ed to the *Archeus*, or *Aura vitalis*, of the Hu-  
man Body, (which is the adequate object of  
Medicine) and thereby becomes a Salutife-  
rous remedy ennobled with Vertues sufficient  
for the curing of many Diseases. This De-  
finition ariseth from its subject, Object and  
End.

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II. It is neither an Acid nor an Alcalý, but a Salt of a middle Nature, being able to pass the several Digestions unchanged, and in its passage to resolve and absterge all Preternatural Coagulations, for which Reason I call it *Sal Solutivum*.

III. It is endowed with those Four general Properties. viz. *Cathartic, Diuretic, Deobstruent*, and allaying of all *Preternatural heat* and *Acrimony*: Besides which, as I have now exalted and improv'd it with the noble *Sulphur of Venus*, it is a general easer of Pain, and Extinguisher of Venereal Venoms, that are not grown to a confirm'd Pox, as is manifest by what it effects now in alleviating the Pains of the *Gout, Rheumatism, Tooth-ach, Colick, Gripping of the Guts, Virulent Ghonorrhæa's, &c.* beyond what it could have done heretofore.

Having thus briefly premised its Nature and Qualifications in general, for the satisfaction of such Physicians as may desire to make use of it; I shall now Address my self more particularly to shew its Virtues and manner of using.

I. *Sal Solutivum* purgeth the gross Excrements and most viscid Humours of the first passages without Nauseating the Stomach, or the least griping Pains. 2. It is singular in opening Obstructions of the Vessels and Viscera. 3. It purifies and invigorates the whole



the Preternatural heat.

But that this Medicine may be given to the best advantage, it is necessary in the Administering it, to have regard to two special Intentions which Physicians are wont to observe in the curing Diseases, viz.    1. The

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purging the first passages, the Stomach and Intestines of gross Excrements and Filths  
 2, To open and dissolve all Stagnant and obstructing matter in the Viscera, as the *Pancreas*, *Mesentery*, *Liver*, *Spleen*, *Reins* and *Womb*, and to correct and purifie the Blood, when it declines from its natural *Crisis*. The ordinary Dose of this Salt to purge according to the *first Intention* (which only is purging according to common Acceptation) is from half an Ounce to six Drams, Dissolved in a Pint, or a Pint and a half of warm Posset-drink, new Whey, or pure Water, and drank in the Morning fasting. Those that cannot take such a quantity of Liquor, may dissolve their Dose in a half Pint (which will presently dissolve if it be warmed) and drink another half Pint presently after it, and a third half an hour after that, and fast till Dinner-time, except the Patient have a mind to take a Porrenger of Water Gruel, or thin Broth; neither will a draught of Ale, or a Dish of Tea at all hinder, but promote the working of it, Those who like neither Posset-drink, Whey or Water, or want the Convenience of getting them, may take, it in Ale, and it will do well enough; altho' in some few Persons I have known it cause a Drowsiness when taken in spirituous Liquors; the Reason of which is its partaking of the *Anodyne*, *Narcotick* Sulphurs of *Mars* and *Venus*, which readily associate themselves with the vegetable Sulphureous Spirits, by which they



are quickly carried to the Brain : Yet the Use which may be made of this in some Cases, is not inconsiderable, as is well known to Physicians.

This Medicine doth not only gently dissolve and expurge the Excrements of the Stomach and Guts, but it also corrects the violence of all Preternatural Purges, if you put but two Drams of it in their infusion, or drink the same Quantity in a Draught of warm Posset-drink after Pills which gripe and operate Churlishly ; It hath also a Power of stopping the Working of Vomits, some of which greatly incommode the Stomach, by Vellivating its Membranes, and impressing them with a Nauseating Character ; to prevent which, let two or three Drams of the *Sal Solutivum*, be dissolved in half a Pint of cold Water, and drank about half an Hour before the Vomit is taken. Or in case a Vomit be taken which worketh too violently, or too long, (that is when the Stomach is wholly emptied, and yet the Patient continueth to reach,) let a Dram and an half, or two Drams of the Salt be dissolved in a large Glass of warm Posset-drink, or rather warm Water, (because Posset-drink may at that time be disgustful) and be drank off. Do the same when a Vomit hath done working, and yet the Patient finds a swimming or Giddiness in the Head, or a Nauseousness, or Disposition to Vomit, for the Salt will free the Tunicles of the Stomach, and contract and corroborate them,

them, precipitating the offending Particles *per inferiora*; but I add not this to encourage any Body to meddle with such Physick without due Advice, but to shew the safety and efficacy of the Medicine. **N. B.** This Salt never leaves the Belly bound as the common Purges do, but always soluble, and is the best Remedy that I know against a *Costive Temper of Body*.

*The second Intention* is to alter, and open Obstructions in the *Liver, Spleen, Pancreas, Mesentery, Reins, Bladder, and Womb*; from which proceed many tedious and stubborn Diseases, as the *Scurvy, Dropsy, Jaundies, Hypochondriack, Melancholy, Vapours, Greensickness, Rheumatism, inveterate Head-ach, Restlessness, Sleepiness, Vertigo, Phrenzy, Cramps, Convulsions, Internal Inflammations, and Aposthumes, Piles, Exulcerations of the Kidneys and Bladder, Gravel, stoppage of Urine, &c.* together with many others arising from Obstructions, and *Acrimony* of the Blood, and vital Juices.

In all which the chief end of this Medicine being to resolve and attenuate the thick and stagnant Juices of the Excrements of the several Digestions which lye in the smallest passages, to temper any excess of Quality in the *Bile, Lympha, and Blood*, by mingling it self with the Chyle and Blood, and insinuating it self into the more inward recesses of the Body, this method is to observed.

First,



First, purge the Body, with half an Ounce, five or six Drams of the Salt (according to the Patients Age and Strength) dissolve it either in Posset-drink, Whey, or Water as you please, to carry off the gross Excrements of the first Passages, and to make a Way for the better Penetration and Distribution of the Remedy into all the Parts of the Body. If the first Dose purge not to your Mind, take another the next Day, that the aforesaid End may be answered. Then dissolve the same quantity of the Salt you gave to purge, in a Quart or three Pints of pure Water, and let the Patient take a third Part of it the same Night after the Purge three Hours after Supper, another third Part the next Morning early before rising, that he may sleep upon it, and the remaining third Part in the Day-time between Meals, and this to be continued for a Week, Fortnight or three Weeks, &c. as occasion shall require: But because some Patients cannot drink any considerable quantity of Water, without Nauseating or other Inconveniency to their Bodies, the Physician may accommodate the quantity of Water to his own liking, provided he order but enough to dissolve it well, that it may not taste too strong.

This Salt answers all the Ends of the *Mineral-Waters*, both purging and Chalybeate; besides, and beyond which it hath some Advantages, one of which is the certainty of its Nature and Operations, the which cannot

be affirmed of any of the Mineral Springs; seeing that there may be a Growth, or accidental Concourse of various matter in the passages of the Earth, which may variously impregnate the Waters passing through them, and make some Alteration in their Properties. Besides the Patient is oblig'd to drink a large quantity of the *Mineral-Waters*, or they will not work; which if they do not, they cause Gripping, Stitches, Sleepiness, Feverish Dispositions, and other inconveniences, arising from the Crudity of the Minerals, as well as from the quantity of the Waters (especially the Chalybeate) which also require purging before and after a Course of drinking them, to prevent some hurts, which otherwise might arise by their use; which every one is excused from in the use of this Salt, for where a large quantity of Water is not convenient for the Patient, a Quart, a Pint and a half, yea even a Pint may serve, this being also its own purge: Besides it being free from Mineral Crudity, and wholly pure and friendly to Nature, can never do hurt, but always good by being long retained in the Body. Nor is it to be reckoned amongst the smallest Advantages to those who are confined to a Place by Business, or by the Narrowness of their Fortune, that they may take this artificial Mineral-Water, at all times of the Year and in all Places, without loss of time, hinderance of Business, or the charge of Coach-hire to and from the Wells, or more chargeable maintaining themselves there.



If you would use it instead of the purging Waters, as *Epsom, Dulwich, Northall, &c.* dissolve six Drams, or three quarters of an Ounce of the Salt, in the same quantity of pure Spring-water, as would be fit for the Patient of any of the purging Waters, viz. from three Pints to three Quarts, ordering him to drink it by degrees in the Morning, in the space of an Hour and a half, or two Hours, and to walk, or use some Exercise in the open Air (provided it be in the Summer time) and to order himself as if he were drinking the Mineral purging Waters.

But if you would have it answer the End of the Chalybeate Waters; as the *German-Spa, Tunbridge, Islington, &c.* viz. to purge but little by Stool, but to alter and open Obstructions, then use it as in the second general Direction already given.

Now although this Salt be of great use and service in very many Diseases, yet I have by long Experience observed, that in some it is specifically potent; as in the *Scurvy, Jaundies, Dropsy, Hysterical Suffocations, Melancholy Vapours, Green sickness, stoppage of the Menses, Piles, Ghonorrhæa, Colic, Diarrhæa, Bloody Flux, Gripping of the Guts, Worms of all sorts, old Head-ach, Inflammations and Rheumes of the Eyes, Itch, and Cholerick Eruptions of the Skin, stoppage and heat of Urine.* In all which Cases I may truly say, it hath signalized itself, and often exceeded my Expectations. And although from the Directions already given,

given, any one may easily collect the Way of giving it in those Diseases, yet for the publick Good I shall be somewhat more particular.

In the *Scurvy*, I first purge the Patient with a Dose or two of *Sal Solutivum*, as at the beginning of the second general Direction; then I dissolve an Ounce of it in a Quart of pure Water, by shaking them together in a Bottle till all the Salt is dissolved, and then order the Patient to drink half a Pint of the same at Night going to Bed, and another half Pint early in the Morning, so that half an Ounce of the Salt is taken in a Day, and this I continue daily for a Month or six Weeks, according to the Age and Strength of the Disease, ordering the Patient besides to drink a pure and well rectify'd *Volatle Spirit of Salt*, in all his drink as well at Meat as at other times, ten or twelve Drops at a time or more, so that he may drink the quantity of forty or fifty Drops in a Day, (which Spirit of Salt may be had at my House sealed up in Glasses with printed Directions for its use: Price of each Glas a Shilling) for such as have the *Scurvy*, manifested in their Mouths, by Soreness of the Gums, and their Readiness to bleed upon every light Occasion; I order an Ounce of the Salt to be dissolved in a Pint of warm Water, and the Mouth to be well washed with some of that Water warm two or three times a Day.

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In the *Faundies* I give it in Summer in Water or Whey, in Winter in Warm **Poffet**-drink, every other day five or fix Drams, or two days together (aecording as it works) then intermit a day and give it again, and on the intermitting days half the Dose, continuing the use of it, till the Yellowness and Faintness cease.

In the *Dropfie*, I give it in the same manner as in the *Faundies*, only in a less quantity of the *Vehicle*. I have cured both the *Ascites* and the *Anasarca* with it, but whether it will do ought in a *Tympany*, I know not; having never given it that I remember in that Disease, for in that I am wont to use my *Arcanum Universale*, *Species Universalis*, and *Tinctura Regalis*. But in an *Ascites*, whether it proceed from an Obstruction of the *Liver*, *Kidneys* or *Ureters*, or from a Rupture of the *Vasa Lymphatica*, from their two great Repletion; (from which last I perswade my self more Dropfies to arise than from any other cause) this Medicine answers all the Intentions of cure, because it not only opens all Obstructions, and pleasantly reduceth the water, but also by its strengthening and Balsamick Virtue, Conglutinates the breaches of those Vessels, and Remedies the too great laxity of the *Viscera*, having all the Vertues of a compleat vulnerary Medicine, as I shall have occasion to shew by and by, when I come to speak of its external use.

In *Hysterical Suffocations*, commonly called Fits of the Mother, and Melancholy Vapours, I give two or three Drams dissolved in a Pint and a half, or a Quart of pure water upon the approach of the Fit, or if that cannot be, as soon as the Fit is off, and in the time of the **Fit** (when greater quantities cannot be got down) I order the dissolution of the Salt in water to be given by Spoonfulls. The next day I purge with the whole Dose dissolved in a Quart of water: And for as much as those suffocating Fumes are caused by Obstructions, and Fuliginous matter remaining in the small Vessels, where they ferment from time to time, causing a puffing up, and Sense of fullness (especially sometimes after eating) it is necessary to take the Salt daily for some time, to open and carry off the Obstructions as in the second general direction; by this means their frequent returns may be prevented, by extirpating the Evil which frequently (in those dismal oppressions to the poor female Sex) is but only palliated.

In the *Green-Sickness* in Maids, it is necessary to dissolve an Ounce of the Salt in a Quart of pure water, and to take half a Pint of the water at night going to Bed, and the same quantity early the next Morning, continuing this course daily for three, four or five Weeks if need be, not omitting to purge the patient first with a full Dose or two at the beginning, as in the second general Direction, as also two or three days before the full



full of the Moon, that Nature may be the  
 more effectually helped in this way of ope-  
 rating. Where the *Menses* are only stopt, it  
 is to be taken as in the second general Di-  
 rection for Obstructions ; besides which, the  
 Patient is to be purged once or twice with  
 the full Dose, two or three Days before her  
 monthly Time of Expectancy. This Medi-  
 cine is also of singular Use for those Women  
 whose Months are about to leave them, in  
 preventing many Disorders which are occa-  
 sioned thereby ; in which case it is to be ta-  
 ken once or twice, to the Quantity of half  
 an Ounce, or five or six Drams, for three or  
 four Months successively, about the Time  
 when they ought to flow. I have known some  
 Women of fifty Years of Age, who have by  
 the Use of this Medicine seemed again in  
 that respect to grow young. I have also easily  
 and effectually with this Salt, deliver'd some  
 Women of false great Bellies.

About two Months since, I gave three  
 quarters of an Ounce of *Sal Solutivum* to a  
 Maid about twenty one Years of Age, who  
 had a very ill Habit of Body, and a pale sick-  
 ly Complexion ; having never had the Course  
 of Nature in due Order or Quantity, and  
 for some Months past totally suppressed. She  
 was now seized with a grievous Pain in her  
 right Side, emulating an illegitimate Pleu-  
 risie, which (as she told me) had frequently  
 assaulted her for some Months past, for the  
 removing which Pain, I gave her the Salt,

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which

which gave her seven or eight Stools before Noon, without any Sickneſs or Griping, by which time her Pain was quite gone out of her Side : She eat ſome Dinner, and about two Hours afterwards diſcharged her Stomach by Vomiting of a great Quantity of filthy green Matter, after which ſhe had two or three Stools more, with which her *Menſes* came down plentifully, which, with her often going to the Vault, occaſioned her catching of Cold, and a ſore Throat. I ordered ſhe ſhould have ſomewhat warm'd and comfortable, and go to Bed, and keep very warm the next day, which ſhe did : The Night following ſhe ſtill complained of her Throat, and a Soreneſs over all her Bones, (as ſhe phraſ'd it) I order'd her ten Grains of my *Pillula Baſamica*, which ſweat her very plentifully ; during her ſweating, her natural Pur-gations were but little ; but as ſoon as that was over, they return'd again, continuing for a due time, ſince which ſhe hath remained well.

It is a ſingular Remedy for the Worms of all ſorts, killing them and reſolving them into Slyme, and purging their putrid Matter out of the Body. To Children from three Years of Age to ſeven, I give from a Dram and a half to three Drams ; from ſeven to fourteen, half an Ounce ; from fourteen to twenty or more ; from half an Ounce to three quarters of an Ounce, or fix Drams diſſolved in fair Water, Whey or Poſſet-drink, and continued every day for a week together.

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Where it is difficult to get Children to take it, a little Sugar may be added to the Dissolution, to make it the pleasanter. My *Volatile Spirit of Salt*, also effecteth the same in a longer Time, in those Children which cannot be persuaded to take the Salt, which they may take in all their Drink, and not discern it. The Salt and this Spirit used together are still more effectual.

In the *Piles* I give a quarter of an Ounce of the Salt, dissolved in half a Pint of Water in Summer-time; or warm Posset-drink in Winter, which justs keeps the Belly soluble, and by dulcifying the *Acrimony* of the protruded Blood, takes away the Pain and Inflammation; besides which, if the *Piles* be outward, I order them to be often embrocated with my *Aqua Phagadenica*, and fine Rags to be laid upon them, wet in the same Water. But if they be within the *Anus*, then I order the same Water to be warmed, and injected by a Syringe twice or thrice a Day, and a Rag thrice or four times double, well wetted in the same to be applied outwardly; and by this Course, the *Piles* by degrees, dwindle and shrink up like dry'd Grapes. This Course hath never fail'd me; but hath been effectual even when the *Piles* have been inveterate and fistulated. To those who are subject to the *Piles*, I advise the daily Use of my *Volatile Spirit of Salt*, in all their Drink, to the quantity of thirty or forty Drops a day; it is far better in this Disease than any Diet-drink.

In *Virulent Ghonorrhæas* or *Claps*, I give first six Drams of the Salt dissolved in fair Water in Summer, or in a Pint of warm Posset-drink in Winter, ordering the Patient to drink another Pint within an Hour after, then I give half an Ounce so dissolv'd every Morning, in a Pint of the *Vehicle*, continuing it till all the Heat and Sharpness is gone, and the Gleet fit to be stopt, which sometimes will be in a Week, sometimes a Fortnight or three Weeks, according as it is of shorter or longer standing, or the Diseasifying Power milder or stronger; for it pleasantly and effectually educeth the venereal Venom, purifieth the Seed, and strengthneth the Spermatick Vessels. But when the Issuing is fit to be stopt, I give my *Balsamum ad Ghonorrhæam* every Night at going to Bed, from twenty to forty Drops, mixt with a little Sugar, and half an Ounce of the Salt every other Morning, But where a *Ghonorrhæa* hath not been taken in Time, or hath been unduly stopt, so that it be turned into an incipient Pox, and I find by giving six or seven Doses of the Salt that it cannot reach it, then I have recourse to purging and sweating, alternately with my *Astrum Mercurii*, and *Aurum vitæ Bezoardicum*, which usually effects the Cure to Satisfaction. But in a *Ghonorrhæa* unduly stopt (known for the most part at the first, by a painful Tumour in the Groin) when it hath not exceeded a Month, three, four or five Doses of this Salt will set it a running again, and



and afterwards cure it, being used as above with the Balsam; but in longer time I have known some who have fallen into the Hands of Men, either unskilful in this Matter, or worse, who have endeavour'd to disperse those Tumours, which themselves have made, by their unreasonable stopping of a *Gonorrhæa*; and have sometimes effected it so well, as when the Patient hath thought himself cured of a Clap, he hath soon after been attacked by the Symptoms of a Pox, and so the last Error of the Physician was worse than the first.

In the *Cholic* or *Gripping* of the *Guts*, where there is great Pain, I dissolve six Drams or three quarters of an Ounce of the Salt in a Quart of hot Spring-water, and order the Patient to drink three or four Glasses in the Space of half an Hour, as hot as he can: But if there be vomiting, let it be drank more leisurely, *viz.* a quarter of a Pint once in a quarter of an Hour, till the Vomiting cease, then take notice how much of the Medicine hath been vomited up, and give so much again, that the Patient may have the full Dose. If in the Water you intend to dissolve the Salt in, you first boyl the bruised Seed of *Anise*, sweet *Fennel*, *Caraway*, and *Coriander*, a Dram or two Drams of each, to a Quart of Water; it will be the better, because those Seeds have a peculiar Virtue of pacifying the exorbitant Fury of the *Pylorus*; you may put in the Salt in the boiling, which will extract the Virtues of the Seeds, sooner and better

than Water alone can do. But beware that you neither boyl, infuse or warm any Liquor in which the Salt is, in Brasse or Copper Vessels, but in Silver Tin or Earth, lest it attract from the Metal somewhat disagreeable to the Stomach. It usually ease the Pain in two or three Hours time, sometimes sooner; but where the Stomach will not retain it, or it doth not overcome and expell the obstructing Matter, in a few Hourstime, I give a second Dose, and if that fail (as I have some few times seen in the *dry Gripes* and *Wind Cholic*) then I have recourse to my *Arcanum Universale*, which blessed be the Almighty) hath not, that I remember ever failed me. *Note*, that after the Pains are allay'd, it is necessary to purge the Body divers times, with the Salt dissolved in the aforementioned Decoction of Seeds, to carry off the remaining Excrecence, which otherwise, retaining a diseasy Ferment, may soon cause a fresh Disorder. But in a bilious *Cholic*, known by Bitterness of the Mouth, Vomiting, Yellowness of the Skin, &c. you may leave out the Seeds and give it in Water only, the Seeds being more precisely adapted to the Help of the *Wind Cholic*, *Gripes*, *Iliac Passion*, &c. yet they are endowed with a general Virtue of pacifying the *Pylorus*.

In a *Diarrhaea* or common Looseness, boyl some Bran in pure Water, strain the Decoction, and in a Pint of it dissolve three Drams of the Salt, and drink it up at twice, at three



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or four Hours Distance ; do this three or four times over if need be. But in a *Dysentery* or *Bloody-Flux*, I give the Salt dissolved in a Decoction of red Rose Leaves ; half an Ounce a Day as long as is required, after both which, the Patient must be purged with the whole Dose dissolved in a Quart of the same Decoction, in which it was given before to sweeten the *Acrimony*. In the *Bloody-Flux*, I have given six Drams of it Clyster-wise in the aforesaid Decoction, besides giving it at the Mouth by two Drams at a time, twice a Day, and that with great Success.

In *Head-Achs*, *Inflammations* and *Rheums* in the *Eyes*, I give five or six Drams every other day, so long as there is need, many of which it hath taken away at three or four times taking. But as an auxiliary Topick, in *Inflammations* and *Rheums* of the *Eyes*, I order a few Drops of my *AquaOphthalmica*, to be dropt into the Eyes, two or three times a day.

In the *Itch*, *Botches*, *Boyls*, and other *Cholerick Eruptions* of the *Skin*, I give half an Ounce or five drams every day, dissolved in a Quart or three Pints of Water or new Whey, in the Morning, as the Mineral-Waters for a Week, Fortnight, three Weeks, or a Month together, as the Greatness of the Disease requires : In those Cases it cannot be enough commended I have cured some that have been adjudged Leprous : In those Diseases I order together with it, my *Volatile Spirit of Salt*, to be taken inwardly, as in the  
Scurvy,

*Scurvy*, and my *Aqua Phagadenica* to be used outwardly, by washing with it twice a Day.

In Heat or Gravel in the *Kidneys*, or Stoppage or Heat of *Urine*; first I purge the Body with one whole Dose, then dissolve an Ounce in a Quart of Water in Summer, or warm Posset-drink in Winter, and let the Patient drink half a Pint at Night going to Bed, and also early in the Morning; besides which, I order thirty or forty drops a day of my *Volatile Spirit of Salt*; continuing the Use of chole, till the preternatural Heat be gone, the Obstructions opened, or Gravel cealeth to come away.

Thus I have in as brief a manner as I could, set down my Experience of the internal Use of this Medicine, wherein I am not conscious to my self, that I have in any thing commended it beyond its just Merit. I shall in the next Place add something concerning its external Virtues and Use: To which by way of Conclusion and Confirmation, I shall subjoyn the Observations of some learned and skilful Physicians concerning its Virtues, which they have been so kind to communicate to me for the publick Good.

### *Of the external Use of Sal Solutum.*

**T**HIS Salt hath its peculiar Excellencies in Chirurgery, as well as in Physick: It presently stops Bleeding; cures an ordinary Wound, whether incised or contused,



tused, at one single Dressing ; but if the Wound be large and lacerated (provided it be timely and duly applied) at two or three Dressings, as I my self have divers times seen. It takes away all Inflammation and Pain from the Wound, in half an Hours time, never suffering it to come to Suppuration, but cures it by the first Intention. There are three Ways of preparing it, to apply it to Wounds.

The first is to take some of the *Christalline Salt*, in the Summer time, and spread it thin in a broad Glasse dish, or earthen one glazed, and expose it to the Sun all day, stirring it now and then, and covering it with a clean Paper, to keep any Dust from falling into it, and in a few days you will have it come to a Powder like fine Flower ; when it is brought to this State, I believe it will perform all things which are rightly ascribed to the Sympathetick Powder : But this I leave and recommend to the Tryal of the ingenious ; among which, if any shall be so generous to communicate to me any Effects of this Salt, which may be of further Use to the publick, they shall be thankfully received, and again improved to that End. The second way is to put some of the Salt in double Papers, about half an Ounce or less in Paper, and wear it sometime in the Pocket, that the Warmth of the Body may supply the Place of the Sun's heat, and in like manner bring it to an insensible Powder ; and this may be done in the Winter

Winter-time without Attendance or Trouble. The third way is to dissolve four Ounces of the Salt in a Quart of warm Water, put into a Bottle, and shaking it till it is all dissolved and keeping it close stopt up for Use. The first way it is most powerful; the last of the least Efficacy; but either way will well serve

For a small *Wound* or *Hurt*, take a little of the Powder of the first or second Preparation and lay it upon the Wound pretty thick and bind it on close, so that no Air may come in and let it continue on till 'tis healed, which will quickly be; but it is convenient to let it remain on for two or three days, that it may be confirmed: If at any time when you take off the dressing, you find in a *Cut* that it is not sufficiently consolidated, or in a *Bruise*, that all the Soreness and Blackness is not gone presently apply a little more of the Medicin and let it lye till the Hurt is quite well. But if you have not the Powder of the first or second Preparation, then take a Pledget of Lin or fine Tow, or a fine Linnen Rag three or four times double, which let be well and thoroughly wetted with the water of the third preparation, and apply that to the Hurt the other, which once in twelve Hours oftner, if need be, you may moisten all over with some of the same Water, without opening it, if the Wound be large. Where the Wound is large or lacerated, first let it be cleaved washed with warm Urine, so that it may be freed from Dirt or other extraneous Matter



then take such a Quantity of the Powder, as you think necessary well to cover the Wound, and mix it with so much of the white of an Egg (first well beat till it be thin) as will make into the Consistency of a pretty thin Liniment, which spread upon fine Tow, or fine Linnen, and apply it to the Wound with convenient Bandage, letting it remain two or three days before you open it; except in that time you find any considerable Pain, which if you do, it is a Sign that the Air hath access to the Wound, and then open it, and presently apply a fresh dressing, as close as possible you can. Note, that If there be in the Wound such torn ragged Flesh, that hath taken Air, and you judge incapable of Conglutination, take it off with your Scissors before you apply the dressing. If you have not the Powder, then use the Water as above directed. The Powder will answer all the Intentions of Cure in an Amputation, being duly apply'd with good Bandage.

It cures *Ruptures* in Children, if the *Rupture* be first put up, and then the Powder mixt with the white of an Egg (as for a Wound) and applyed to the *Scrotum* or *Navel*, (as the *Rupture* is) with convenient Bandage, and renewed every fourth Day, and the Salt daily taken inwardly dissolved in a Decoction of Comfry Roots, so much as may just keep the Belly loose, but not purge; for the straining of the Abdominal Muscles in going to Stool is a great Hinderance to the

the Agglutinating of *Ruptures*. Suppose the Child be two or three Years of Age, dissolve half an Ounce of the Salt in a Pint of the Decoction, and give the Child three Spoonfuls of it Night and Morning, renewing the Decoction and Salt against that is done, and continue the Course for six Weeks, and by God's Blessing the Cure will be effected. If the Child be younger, two Spoonfuls may be enough, if Elder, you must give it more according to the Rules before given, varied with Discretion.

It also effects the same in *Fractures* of *Bones*, being used in the same manner, both inwardly and outwardly, for it powerfully assisteth Nature, in forming the Callus, and also preventeth *Fevers*, which not seldom happen upon those Accidents.

Half a Grain, or a Grain at a time, of the Powder may be blown up into the Nostrils daily Night and Morning, to serve as an *E-rhine*, or sneezing Medicine; for it pleasantly and copiously evacuateth superfluous Moisture, by which it cureth *Catarrhs*, it being also taken inwardly every other Day for some time, in such a quantity as may give three or four Stools, which is ordinarily done with half an Ounce. It giveth present ease in the *Tooth-ach*, about a Dram of the Powder, being tied up in a Rag, and applied to the pained Tooth; but this is to be understood when the *Tooth-ach* proceeds from a sharp Humour, irritating the Nerves which are inser-

ted



ted into their Roots, but not of the Pain of a hollow or rotten Tooth, excepting that in those it may give some short Ease: But it is necessary besides to purge 2 or 3 times with the full Dose of the Salt, to dulcifie and carry off the Sharpness which causeth the Pain.

I could here set down many more Uses of this benign Salt; but because they are not precisely useful to a Physician or Chirurgeon, I shall leave them to some other Opportunity, till I see what Reception the things I have already published concerning it, will meet with; and subjoyn the following Accounts, which I have received of it from others.



S I R,

I Have only this day received your Letter; and if you wrote a former one to me, I assure you that it never came to my Hands, and therefore must have miscarried; neither have I had any Notice of your Intentions, in making of your *Sal Solutivum* more publick; only your old Acquaintance, and my worthy Friend Mr. T. did lately acquaint me that you design'd to afford it at a lower Rate than hitherto you have done.

'I could have wish'd, that you had always sold it at a more easie Price; for then it had been no small Advantage to the meaner sort of People, amongst whom the happy Effects of it might have been more largely experienc'd, than their mean Purſes could

' admit of; it being one of the most general,  
 ' safe and useful Medicines that ever I have  
 ' prescribed ; not only in those Cases where  
 ' in you so much recommended it, but like-  
 ' wise in divers others, in which it may be,  
 ' you have not hitherto made any Trial of it.

' In *Cholics* and *Gripping* of the Guts, where  
 ' few purging Medicines take place, it is  
 ' scarce credible, with how much Ease it car-  
 ' ries off those peccant fermenting Humours  
 ' out of the Bowels; removes Pains, and in-  
 ' deed, *instar incantamenti*, affords more sure  
 ' Relief than *Galen's* Cupping-glass ever did.

' It is of excellent Use in the *Strangury*,  
 ' *Gravel*, and *Nephritic Pains*, if continued  
 ' for some time, and given in a proper Diet  
 ' for the usual Drink.

' Against *Worms*, in all Persons, and of  
 ' any Age, it is a Medicine of singular Efficacy ; and no less powerful than pleasing  
 ' to Children, when sweetned with a proper  
 ' Syrup to promote its quicker Operation.

' It is the very best Medium to prepare  
 ' Chalybeate Medicines by, that I yet could  
 ' ever find ; and when intimately join'd with  
 ' *Mars*, which by a proper Medium is easily  
 ' and readily performed : It affords the best  
 ' and most effectual Remedies, in *Cachexia*,  
 ' *affectione Hypochondriaca*, *Mensium suppressione*,  
 ' *chlorosi sive pallore Virgineo*, *etiam in ipso scor-*  
 ' *buto Multiformi*.

' In excessive *Costiveness*, where the Bowels  
 ' are parched up and inflamed, their Motion  
 ' inverted, and thence those miserable Pains



of the *Iliac Passion*; and where other Glisters tho' often repeated, have no Effect; a sufficient Quantity of this Salt, dissolved in *decocto communi pro clystere*, will certainly and happily effect the Cure.

Externally in all *Wounds* and *Ulcers*, it is the most gentle and best Mundaying and cleansing Medicament that I think is extant; and all Men of Learning and Experience will assent, That that is the great, if not the only Intention required in these *Maladies*; and that he who can happily answer that one Indication, without Corrosives or doloriferous Medicines will easily keep off all evil Attendants, and then Nature it self will prove the surest and swiftest Digestive, *Sarcotic* and *Epulotic Medicus*.

There is one Distemper, which it seems was very rare in *Galen's* Days, and which he relates only twice to have seen, tho' then arrived at a very great Age, viz. a *Diabetes*; but the Debaucheries of our Times have rendered it more common amongst us. I having been sufficiently puzzled in two of my Patients afflicted with it, notwithstanding my utmost Care, in prescribing the best of Medicines, and exactly following the Methods of the most learned Physicians, tho' wholly without Success; till at last I began to consider of *Sal Solutivum*, and its constituent Parts; and then by a very different Method from the usual Way of exhibiting it, it had in both Cases that happy Effect, which gives me some hopes, that if

‘ rightly and duly order’d, it may prove al-  
 ‘ most as effectual in that deplorable Distem-  
 ‘ per, as the *Cortex* in intermitting *Fevers*.

‘ I shall only give you this one more of my  
 ‘ Observations about it, and it is in a Dis-  
 ‘ ease which *Cathartics* instead of relieving  
 ‘ generally render more violent, and tho’ ad-  
 ‘ ministr’d even in the Intervals of Fits, and  
 ‘ after a long time of Cessation; yet they  
 ‘ usually with greater Violence cause their  
 ‘ Returns: I mean *Hysterics*, vulgarly call’d  
 ‘ *Fits of the Mother*, in which I have scarce  
 ‘ ever known this Salt to fail; being given  
 ‘ in a large Proportion of a very easy, tho’  
 ‘ most proper *Vehicle*; it is then strangely  
 ‘ grateful, and even in the taking, as well as  
 ‘ in the Operation, doth with mighty Ease,  
 ‘ yield an incredible Relief in that trouble-  
 ‘ some and vexatious Distemper, both to  
 ‘ the Patient and Physician.

‘ Thus Sir I have, tho’ very concisely an-  
 ‘ swer’d your Request; and amongst my Ob-  
 ‘ servata passim rariora, tam *Medica* quam *Chy-  
 ‘ rurgica*, (which as my Time will permit,  
 ‘ I am preparing for the Press) I shall say  
 ‘ much more concerning this Salt, both  
 ‘ as to its Doses, proper *Vehiculi*, Ways of  
 ‘ exhibiting, Times of administering; and  
 ‘ rightly applying it to diversity of Consti-  
 ‘ tutions, for without a due Consideration of  
 ‘ all these, the greatest Physicians would  
 ‘ scarce differ from *Empirics*, and must only  
 ‘ act like old Women. I am,

Warwick, March  
 11th, 1692.

Sir, Your humble Servant.  
 W. Johnston.



*An Abstract of a LETTER touching Sal  
Solutivum.*

**I** Have much to say in the Commendation of *Sal Solutivum* in general ; but especially on its transcendent Effects (by the Blessing of the Almighty) on two late Patients of mine; the one in a putrid *Fever*, occasioned by a Surfeit ; the other of an *Athletick* Habit of Body, being *Asthmatick*, and afflicted with a painful *Tumour* in *Ano*.

The first of these Patients had been under the Hands of two other Physicians, for seven or eight Days ; who after they had skinn'd him alive, left him to combat with Death, as impossible to be cured. The Method they took was this ; first they prescribed him a Sudorifick, ordering the Sweat to be promoted for several Hours : The same Evening they gave him a Clyster ; the second day another Clyster ; the third Day another ; after which they open'd a Vein in his Arm, not omitting Cordials, Night-draughts, &c. After his second Clyster, he fell into Gripings of the Bowels ; then they followed him with more appropriate Clysters, and other Medicines inwardly adhibited for that Purpose. After bleeding he fell delirious, even to a full Distraction ; to remedy which, they blistered him in divers Places, but all in vain, which they seeing, put him under the Sentence of Death, and so left him. In this Condition he had remained several

' days, when I was sent for to him. When I  
 ' came, I greatly blamed the Physicians to  
 ' their Faces; for that they judging his Dis-  
 ' ease to arise from a Surfeit, had not in  
 ' the first Place discharged the *Viscera* of  
 ' Concoction, and not to have drawn the  
 ' Crudities by Clysters into the Guts; and  
 ' then for their impertinent and ill-timed  
 ' Sweating of him, but above all for their  
 ' Bleeding him, which soon suck'd in the  
 ' Defilements of a corrupted *Chyle*, into the  
 ' Veins, and put the whole Mass of Blood  
 ' into a Ferment. They made little Oppo-  
 ' sition to the Charge, and the sole Care of  
 ' the Patient was put upon me. He was still  
 ' in a distracted Condition, and his Eye sight  
 ' quite taken away; yet finding by his Pulse  
 ' that he had Strength enough to bear the  
 ' *Sal Solutivum*, I gave him a Dose, which in  
 ' an Hour gave him a Motion to stool, and  
 ' within four Hours gave him six Stools, to  
 ' my great Satisfaction; about the end of  
 ' which time, the Patient fell into a sound  
 ' and quiet Sleep: I then again feeling his  
 ' Pulse, told his Relations he would have no  
 ' more raving Fits, which (praised be the  
 ' Almighty) accordingly happened; nor did  
 ' I besides this administer any thing, but a  
 ' little Cordial impregnated with your E-  
 'lixir *proprietas volatile* to his full Recovery.  
 ' Being just now sent for to visit a Patient,  
 ' I have no time to write more concerning  
 ' the two Cures abovesaid, but the Persons  
 ' are now both in good Health.



*An Abstract of another LETTER from the  
same Physician.*

AS touching the Virtue of *Sal Solutivum*: If I could say no more in its Commendation, than what I have already written you, touching the Case of the young Man in a *Fever* with Distraction; even that alone were worthy to be published for the general Service it might do in such Cases. Yet whether it might always have the same good Effect, is to be doubted; if he that administers it be ignorant of Nature's Inclinations, and the true timing of Medicines. For when I came first to the Patient, my Design was to have administered a Dose of your *Arcanum Universale*, by reason of his great Complaint of his Head; but finding him very weak, and that his Eye-sight was almost lost, by reason of the Violence of his Fits; and hearing a croaking Noise in the Intestines, I presently changed my Intention, and instead of the *Arcanum*, gave a Dose of *Sal Solutivum*, which had the blessed Effect before written. Note that this was done on the eleventh day of his Disease.

The Salt had the like Success in the Distemper of a young Woman, occasioned from a Fright by a Fall from her Horse: In the first Place, she was seized with *Convulsions* and *Hysteric Passions*, which returned three or four times every day, for several Days together, with a continual Pain about the Region of her Spleen, but during

the time of her Fits only a great Pain in  
 her Head. A neighbouring Physician's Advice  
 was taken, who endeavoured with  
*pearl Cordials, Anti-Convulsive* and *Hysteric*  
 Remedies to appease the Fury of the Spirits,  
 but without Success; for on the contrary,  
 the Fits came on with greater Violence,  
 and she also in the Interspace grew  
 gradually so melancholy, till at last she  
 became as dumb to almost all Discourse. I  
 being sent for, after Enquiry into the Nature  
 of her Disease, and the Remedies which  
 had been administered; I found that she  
 had a Suppression of her *Menses* for  
 some Months before; she also being of a  
 sanguine Complexion: But soon after I  
 came, perceiving one of her Fits a coming,  
 I gave her thirty Drops of your *Elixir Epilepticum*,  
 which no sooner was warm in her  
 Stomach, but the Fit gradually remitted;  
 and thereupon her Fits of both sorts wholly  
 ceased: But the Pain of her Spleen, Obstruction  
 of the Womb, and the abounding of Melancholy  
 remained; neither had she the Benefit of  
 Stools as usual. I considering it was near  
 the prime of the Moon, advised a Clyster  
 for that Evening, and the next Morning  
 six Drams of *Sal Solutivum*. And whereas  
 she was before confined to her Bed, lying  
 with a melancholy Eye fix'd upon the Wall,  
 I order'd her to rise, and to be imploy'd  
 in some Household Business, or to walk  
 with a Companion in the Fields, which she  
 accordingly did. The third day



after, coming again to see her, and enquiring of the Operation of her Physick, I was inform'd, that the Salt had given her two or three Vomits, (which way of working is usual with it) with several Stools; and yesterday (said her Mother) her Terms came down in abundance, more than ever she had at once in her Life, and still flow; and the continual Pain in her Side is abated. Notwithstanding things promis'd so well, I advis'd her to take two or three Doses more of the Salt, (as knowing it an efficacious Medicine both for the Spleen and Womb, and also in Melancholy Cases) and also prescribed her a small Cordial of *Cephalic*, *Splenetic*, and *Cardiac* Waters, with an Addition of one Dram of your *Elixir Proprietatis Volatile*. I order'd a Dose of the Salt every Morning, and the Cordial four or five times a day on the Intermitting Days. And so by the Blessing of God by the Use of these only, she was in a short time restor'd to perfect Health. The *Convulsive* and *Hysteric Passions* being occasioned by an Idea of Fear, were the more excited from the defect of the Womb, which only being restor'd to its right Office by the Salt, and the Pain of the Spleen removed, the Idea gradually vanished, for which reason I do attribute the Cure chiefly thereunto, believing since, that *Sol Solutivum* would have perform'd the Cure alone, if the Drops had not been used. But for Diseases of the Womb, I have observ'd it to be extraordinary

extraordinary successfull, when given about  
 the Change or full of the Moon, whose In-  
 fluence upon that Part is very remarkable.

I have by me near forty Observations  
 more of Cures (wherein *Sal Solutivum*  
 hath been used) in different Constitutions,  
 Ferments and Diseases, as well complicate  
 as simple; but because other Medicines  
 have been used, together with the Salt, I  
 shall forbear to add any of them except you  
 desire it. But as to Particulars let this fol-  
 lowing Account serve for all; it being a  
 Cure perform'd by it upon my own Body,  
 and for the Greatness of it, deserves to be  
 put as a Frontispiece before the rest. Take  
 it thus. At first I had a small Pain for some  
 Hours, with a gentle Inflammation, which  
 encreasing after one day, broke forth into  
 Pimples, and some Pustles, near the *Spina*  
*Dorsi* on the right Side, with a gradual and  
 daily boring as with an Auger, inwardly  
 from that Part, untill by the third day it  
 had reached in a strait Line, the right side  
 of the *Umbilicus*: The Superficies of each  
 pained part, I could have covered with a  
 Crown piece. I concluded these to be the  
 Symptoms of an imposthumous or ulcerous  
 Ferment, to me almost equally dangerous  
 for considering that my Stomach frequently  
 abounded with a Scorbutic Acidity, I was  
 apprehensive of Danger, in promoting Ma-  
 turation if Aposthumous, and that the A-  
 cidities of the Stomach would be as vexa-  
 tious to an *Ulcer*, if not in the first Place al-  
 tered



tered. Under this Thoughtfulness, I called to mind the Nature of *Sal Solutivum*, the which altho' I had often administred to others, yet had not taken four Doses my self for divers Years: However, because of its general solutive Quality, and the rather for that I know by Experience, that in a Saline scorbutic Habit, it hath abated the Saltiness and Sharpness of the *Lympha*: Therefore (God me so directing) I resolved forthwith to rely upon the sole use of *Sal Solutivum* (at the which my Distemper had not exceeded four days) and presently dissolved a Dose thereof in warm Posset-drink, being early in the Morning, which wrought very little, nor was my Pains lessened, but rather encreased for that day. At Evening therefore I swallowed four Pills of *Species Universalis*, and the Pain for that Night (the Pills having no Action) became almost intolerable. The next Morning I took a large Dose of the Salt, and felt in its Operation some Ease before Noon: The same day at Evening I took another dose, which after two or three Motions gave me far greater Ease than the former, so that I rested pretty well that Night. The next Morning I found more of Soreness and Tenderneſs than Pain. Thus I continued to take the Salt every Morning and Night, (except the first Night that I took the Pills) till my whole Stock was spent, which was but five doses, which I made up six by borrowing a dose of one of my Patients, to whom I

had before prescribed some doses of this  
 Medicine, by which time all my Pain was  
 happily and totally removed. First, the  
 Pain near the Navel gradually remitted  
 inwardly as it encreased, and afterwards  
 that near my Back. For the first three days  
 my Excrements continued Foetid, Crude  
 and Slimy, the fourth day the Ordure be-  
 came laudable enough, nor have I had ever  
 since the least Symptom of Pain in those  
 Parts.

One thing worthy of Observation hap-  
 pened in the curing of this Distemper by  
 the Salt, which is, that it also met with  
 another at that time altogether unthought  
 of, which I hope it hath eradicated, I ha-  
 ving been free from it ever since: It was a  
*Tetanus* or *Cramp*, an old and frequent Con-  
 comitant of the *Scurvy*: I either had it in  
 my Fingers when writing, in my Throat  
 when yawning, or in my Thighs, when  
 stretching them down in the Bed; once in  
 almost all the musculous Parts of my Body  
 occasioned by the taking of a Vomit many  
 Years since. When on Horseback by turn-  
 ing my self about, it would presently seize  
 either my Neck, Shoulders or Side, so fre-  
 quent and troublesome was it to me; al-  
 though by things inwardly taken and out-  
 wardly applyed, it would perhaps remit it  
 Vigour for a Week or more at a time some  
 times, nevertheless it would at other times  
 within that Compass give me fresh On-



sets to my exceeding great Trouble and Pain : But now (blessed be the thrice glorious Name of God) I am freed from it, with a Restoration and renewing of my Health.

One thing more worthy to be observed, which I had almost forgot, is this ; I had long had a *Carnous Tumour*, occasioned at the first, as I suppose, by a Wrench or Strain of my Back ; this continued some what after the Beginning very painful, after that, a small *Tubercle*, like a *Wen*, arising from the *Spine*, near the upper *Vertebra* of the Loins, on the left Side. Some Months after this, a stretching Pain with a *Tumour*, from that Part reached straightway the Length of the *Spleen*, which gradually tumify'd to the Magnitude of a Child's Arm, in a pyramidal or conical Figure, whose lesser End began from that *Tubercle* in the Back, and the greater Part stretching over the *Spleen*, ended in the *Hypoconder* of that Side. This *Tumour* was some Years since mitigated by the Use of Aperitives and *Emplastrum Nigrum* ; nevertheless it still continued painful, when I lay on that Side ; besides which it would increase and decrease with the Moon : But since my taking the six Doses of *Sal Solutivum*, no Symptom of that Nature hitherto appears, nor any thing like a *Tumour* remains. The Cure of this, as also of the *Cramp*, was indeed unthought on by me then, whose Trouble and Pain were in

D

considerable

considerable to that other contained in the  
 first Part of this Account, but (by the Blessing  
 of the Almighty) all things wrought  
 together for the Benefit of,

*Your Loving Friend to use,*

*Wivlescomb, Decemb.*

17th, 1693.

Fra. Brayne.



*Dr. Packe,*

I Have very often been Prevented in my  
 design of answering yours. As to the So-  
 lutive Salt I have found it effectual in heat  
 of Urine more than once; I have given it  
 to several Persons, and to Children in a  
 Tertian Fever, and the second Dose has  
 put by the Fit; I seldom gave less than  
 half an Ounce unless to Children under  
 ten years; I cured a young Woman of Qua-  
 lity, *in dolore & fluxu Hemorrhoidum*, or  
 bleeding Piles, when all Remedies proved  
 ineffectual, with six Doses of it, half an  
 Ounce to each Dose without any return;  
 the same I did for a Gentleman of Quality  
 of this Country, it being an old and obsti-  
 nate Disease; I give it to Children for the  
*Worms*; and to Persons in continual Fevers  
 before any Signs of Concoction, if they be  
 restringed, or there be any occasion for a  
 Solutive; because it does not disorder the  
 Humours, yet I have known it Purge  
 some Persons very much, who have Lax  
 Bowels and are of a weak habit of Body.

A



‘ A young Maid who had a Tumour broke  
 ‘ in the intercostal Muscles of her Breast,  
 ‘ which I perceived by her complaint, and  
 ‘ by the *pus* that she Cought up, I cured,  
 ‘ by giving her three Doses of these Crystals;  
 ‘ they cleans’d, and heal’d the *Ulcer*, as I do  
 ‘ believe. For want of Appetite, I have gi-  
 ‘ ven it to very many, and it always pro-  
 ‘ cur’d an Appetite to all, in two or three  
 ‘ Doses taking. One remarkable Experiment  
 ‘ of the *Sal Solutivum* I had almost forgot, it  
 ‘ is this : A Gentleman in *Hampshire* had a  
 ‘ Son about four Years of Age, whose Face  
 ‘ soon after his Birth was wholly encrusted  
 ‘ over with a Scab, which continued not-  
 ‘ withstanding all the Physicians Endea-  
 ‘ vours, and old Womens Medicines in the  
 ‘ Country, till it was by me totally cleansed  
 ‘ by *Sal Solutivum*. I dissolved half an Ounce  
 ‘ of the Salt in four Ounces of Spring-water,  
 ‘ and ordered the Child’s Face to be washed  
 ‘ therewith three times a day ; and at the  
 ‘ same time the Child took the Salt in his  
 ‘ Milk from one Dram (by degrees) to two  
 ‘ Drams every Morning for three Weeks to-  
 ‘ gether, by which means the Scab vanished,  
 ‘ and the Child’s Face became perfectly  
 ‘ smooth, which I look upon to be an ex-  
 ‘ traordinary Effect. I cannot at present  
 ‘ think of more, because I am in haste, but  
 ‘ I should be glad to hear what Improve-  
 ‘ ment you, and some other Practitioners

‘ have made of it ; I have some of it by  
‘ me : When I want you shall hear from,

S I R,

*Your affectionate Friend  
and Servant.*

*Chichester, Novemb.  
19th, 1692.*

F. Howse.



S I R,

‘ **Y**OU having acquainted me with a  
‘ Design you had to advance the Re-  
‘ putation of wholesome and Salutiferous  
‘ Medicines, that they might be brought into  
‘ more common use, in the stead of those  
‘ crude and ill prepared ones too much in  
‘ Vogue, not only with the meaner Sort,  
‘ upon whom Custom hath prevailed ; but  
‘ all those of a higher Form, whose Pro-  
‘ fession obliges them to do better, the Health  
‘ and Lives of their Patients depending up-  
‘ on it. I must needs acknowledge, there is  
‘ great Reason for all Physicians who design  
‘ the Good of their Neighbours more than  
‘ their own private Interest, to study the best  
‘ Remedies they are capable of, and the best  
‘ Methods for the Administration thereof ;  
‘ because , next to the Cure of Souls, that  
‘ of a Physician is the most careful and wor-  
‘ thy Employment under Heaven : And  
‘ there is as much reason to endeavour a sin-  
‘ cere Reformation therein, as in any thing  
‘ we can set about. Now although this pre-  
‘ sent Undertaking of yours cannot be sup-  
‘ posed.



posed to effect so great a Good ; yet seeing  
 all prudent Men know, that the greatest  
 things in this World are not attain'd o-  
 therwise than *Gradatim*, I am not without  
 some hopes, that the publick Knowledge of  
 the Use and Virtue of your *Sal Solutivum*,  
 may do some Service that way : For when  
 by repeated Experiments it shall be found  
 that this is one of the best and safest of  
 purging Medicines hitherto made use of ;  
 it may not only serve to stop the Mouths  
 of those who abuse the World, by telling  
 them, that Chymical Remedies are dange-  
 rous ; but may excite the more ingenious,  
 to bring into use, those more excellent and  
 Salutiferous Preparations your self and o-  
 thers, who are Philosophers by Fire, can  
 supply them with, for the Good of their  
 Patients. I shall therefore give in Evidence  
 some few of those many Testimonies I  
 have to offer in its just Defense.

About seven Years since I had a Patient,  
 whose Legs were much swell'd and pitted,  
 with other Symptoms, which commonly  
 attend that sort of Dropsy call'd, *Anasarca*.  
 I order'd him to take half an Ounce of  
 your Salt, which purged him very kindly ;  
 after that, six Drams of the same, with the  
 like Operation ; and after that he took a  
 whole Ounce, and by those three Doses,  
 he was perfectly cured, and so continued  
 without any other Medicine.

A Gentlewoman about fifty Years old,  
 being troubled with a general Indisposition

of Body, a great Oppression at her Stomach, with want of Appetite, after other Medicines had prov'd ineffectual, I order'd her to take a Dose of *Sal Solutivum* every Morning in a Draught of Water, which she did, and was cured in about ten Days:

I have Reason also to commend its Use, in those who are troubled with Heat and Sharpness of Urine; it commonly giving them Relief as soon as most Remedies that are used, if it be timely and prudently administred.

For the *Yellow Jaundies*, I believe there are few better Remedies, as will appear by the Tryal I made upon my self. Last Summer I was sorely afflicted with a deep Melancholy, and after some time fell into the *Yellow Jaundies*: I used those Remedies with which I cured others, but to me they proved ineffectual: But at length I took three Doses of your *Sal Solutivum*, by which (through the Blessing of God) I was perfectly cured. And perhaps it may not be ungrateful to the Sons of Art, to give a brief Account of the *Modus operandi*. The first Dose did vomit and purge from Morning, till about four or five in the Afternoon, which indeed was an unusual and extraordinary way of Operation, I having never known it do so before, either in my self or others: But when I saw that the Matter ejected by Vomit was as yellow as Saffron, I was well pleased with its Operation.



tion. I opened a Vein about fix that Evening, and the *Serum Sanguinis* was as yellow as the Matter of the Vomit: I adventured notwithstanding in two days time to take the same Dose as before; It did not vomit me at all, but only gave about four or five Stools: The last I took gave me about three or four Stools, without the usual griping and Sicknes, which commonly attends ordinary *Cathartics*; and so I was freed from that afflicting Disease, as also that Melancholy which attended me. The Dose I took was about half an Ounce at a time. I thought good to add this as an Encouragement to those who understand true Medicine, that they may not think otherwise of it than they ought; for by this it is manifest that your Salt hath Variety of Ways to exert its Virtue, where it meets with Variety of Matter: And altho' I have for some considerable time, been in the Pursuit of some *Arcana*, in which I have not been wholly frustrate in my Intention; and therefore cannot be supposed fond of any single Remedy, so as to take up with it: Yet I must confess (where purging is necessary) I would for its Safeness and Utility, recommend your Salt before any thing I yet know; because it doth Good, and no Hurt to whomsoever it hath been administred, as by reiterated Experiments hath been found,

By Your Friend and Servant,  
W. Russel.

From my House in Barbican,  
Febr. 17th, 1692-3.

Worthy



*Worthy Sir,*

‘ Here present you with what I have re-  
 ‘ marked (and can bring to Memory)  
 ‘ touching your *Sal Solutivum* in general.

‘ It hath always been highly approv’d for  
 ‘ that excellent Property, beyond all other  
 ‘ that it leaves the Body laxative, and when  
 ‘ taken in a sufficient Quantity, worketh  
 ‘ certainly and copiously without Sicknes,  
 ‘ Gripings or any Discomposure, leaving the  
 ‘ Stomach sensibly stronger, &c. not liable  
 ‘ to taking of Colds, or any Necessity of Con-  
 ‘ finement, as is usual with other Purgatives.

‘ I have found it of excellent Service in the  
 ‘ *Iliac Passion*, making way through, or ra-  
 ‘ ther dissolving the most indurated or stub-  
 ‘ born Obstructions of the Intestines, being  
 ‘ given in a large Dose, &c.

‘ For the *Itch* I have never known any in-  
 ‘ ternal Means to equal it, being taken daily  
 ‘ for a Fortnight together.

‘ For *Uterine Obstructions*, I have prov’d it  
 ‘ of very great Service, and sometime speedy  
 ‘ to a Wonder, effecting the Work the very  
 ‘ first Dose

‘ I have also known it to resolve very large  
 ‘ Tumours of the Neck (supposed to arise  
 ‘ from Cold ; but I am well assured, that  
 ‘ in one it was scrophulous, by taking one  
 ‘ or two large Doses in the Morning in their  
 ‘ Water-Gruel, in which it always works best

‘ And



‘ And as a Crown to all other its excellent Virtues, I have proved it of very great Use and Advantage in Melancholy Madness, viz. where Nature was stubbornly propense to a solitary Retirement, and Constringency, and would not hearken to the Gifts of any other Remedies, especially Resolutives. All Specificks, as well as Universals, were unavailable ; yet by the constant Use of this Medicine for eighteen or twenty Days, Nature became effectually reclaimed from that Error, and Inordinancy, and brought to a proper and due Freedom (or Enlargement) of Action, which was soon obvious in more sound and regular Issues of the sensitive Faculties, &c. This is all that I can at present recollect of it remarkable, which I intreat you to accept of, with the hearty Respects of,

*Your much obliged and*

Feb. 17th, 1692.

*Faithful Servant,*

George Deane.

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## *A P P E N D I X,*

**T**HOUGH many and various Kinds of purging Salts have been recommended since the first Publication of this to the World (which is fifty three Years since) yet none of them has kept up that solid Credit

dit which this still maintains with all who use it to this Day, as well judicious Physicians, as private Gentlemen, &c. For allowing these Salts to be well prepared at the first, and that they were then no despicable Medicines; yet so many have been the pretended Preparers of them, who to undersell each other, have invented the most accurate Ways of disguising or imitating rather than of preparing them, that now the mere Name of them only is left, (which these dext'rous Imitators know very well, will content the Generality of their Purchasers) while their Properties are only Presumptive, and their Virtues in *Nubibus*

When once the Use of this *Sal Solutivum* had somewhat obtained in the World, Dr. *Nehemiah Grew*, and after him most Chymists about the City, expos'd to the Publick Salt by the Name of *Sal Catharticum* and *marum*, giving out that they made it from *Epsom* and other Purging Waters; the Truth of which is much to be doubted, considering the Nature of that Mineral; and how low Price they first sold it at tho' now five times lower. Be that as it will; I know such a Salt as the best of Dr. *Grew's*, when he sold it for fourteen Shillings *per* Pound, may be prepared without any of the Mineral Waters, thus

Take of the Liquor of Salt which run from the Heaps of Salt in Salters and O Mens Shops (which most of them save, setting Vessels to catch it) two Pounds, P



it into a Glass retort or low Body, and pour upon it by degrees twelve Ounces of well de-phlegmated Oyl of Vitriol ; apply a pretty large Receiver, and lute it well ; then distill in Sand till all the Spirit of Salt is come over, giving after that a strong Fire for two Hours, to drive out any of the Oyl of Vitriol that may remain unsalificated : When the Glass is cold, you may add warm Water to the Salt to dissolve it. Filter the Liquor whilst warm, after having evaporated about a third Part of it in a clean Glass or earthen Pan, setting the Remainder in a cool Place for forty eight Hours to chrySTALLIZE. This doth not assume such a Figure in the Shooting, as the *Sal Mirabile Glauberi*, but differs much from it : This shoots into fine Needles ; is white and soft, much resembling Snow, and is of a bitter Taste. 'Tis a gentle Purge, but not so universally agreeable to the Stomach, as *Sal Solutivum*, for which Reason the latter had the Preference, when the *Sal Catharticum* was at the Height of Repute : But how much these latter Salts which they call *Epsom*, are degenerated from that of Dr. *Grew's*, *Lymington*, whence they are sent by *Hoy Loads*, and other Parts where they are forced up from the very Refuse of the Salt Pans, will inform any Enquirer.

Then upon my Father's Translating and publishing *Glauber's* Work, several Chymists and others fell hard to work, in making the *Sal Mirabile* taught in that Book. This because

cause it somewhat resembled the *sal solutivum* externally ; and in degree imitated its Taste to those who gave their Judgement from a superficial Comparison, these forward Gentlemen would needs force to be the very same with it ; though to any considerate Observer, there is a manifest Difference between the very Figure and Complexion of the Chrystalls, the Figure of theirs being pyramidal like Nitre, of this, Cubical ; their Chrystalls being of a dirty muddy Cast, and these perfectly bright and transparent. These differences may be easily perceived by any who will but compare 'em both together, which are sufficient (one would think) to silence those who still have the Assurance (either thro' Knavery or Ignorance) to abuse the World with a Notion that my *Sal Solutivum* and the *Sal Mirabile Glauberi* are one and the same Medicine. Could any of these Pretenders make this *Sal* of Mine, they could no more keep to the true Preparation of it, than they do to that of the *Sal Mirabile*, which they as slovenly disguise as they presumptuously compare with mine. But not to insist upon external Distinctions the difference is vastly wider between the virtue and efficacy of 'em, as those that have try'd both have abundantly testified. And indeed this is the only way to determine of the goodness of a Medicine: For as we cannot judge so well of the Virtue of an Agent acting upon the Body, from the Power and Force of the Agent consider'd in itself, as by the effect



Consequence, of that Action; so one cannot properly say such a Medicine has or has not such a Virtue, till it has frequently been taken into the Body. Now the constant Use of this *Sal Solutivum* by eminent Physicians for above thirty Years together, when they might have had the *Sal Mirabile*, for a *sixth* Part of the Price, together with their giving it the Preference to all other Purges whatsoever, will soon determine any impartial Judge. Among many Letters I have to produce concerning this Particular, I shall offer one which the late Dr. *James Thoromgood* of *Halesworth* in *Suffolk*, wrote my Father, about eleven Years after he had us'd this Salt, and seven after the Publishing of *Glauber* translated. It runs thus;

*Worthy Sir,*

I Understand you have pleasur'd a Brother of our Faculty in the same Town where I live, with some of your *Sal Solutivum*, who (I'm inform'd) speaks but unworthily of it, and may do so by the rest of your Preparations, if you procede. Whether he obtain'd them by his own Letter, or had them procur'd by Dr. H—— (I suppose) or some other Friend in *London*, I know not; I must say I have found it to answer abundantly what you have said of it, and shall Persist in the Use of it, though he thinks to lessen the Repute it deserves, judging his Anger to

E

' be

‘ be as much levelled against me as it, though  
 ‘ grounded upon no reasonable Disgust that  
 ‘ I know of, or care for ; I thought fit to  
 ‘ let you know this as a Caution, and shall  
 ‘ remain,

*Your Real Friend,*

*Halesworth, May*  
 15th, 1695.

J. THORNGOOD.

This Gentleman was allow'd the most Eminent Physician of his Time, in the Country ; he had used some of these Medicines twenty Years before, therefore was a more qualified Judge of them, than one who had not try'd them so many Days. He continued using very great Quantities of them to the Time of his Death, which happen'd in 1711; at which Time he had corresponded with my Father near Forty Years.



The following Letters were receiv'd since the last Edition of the *Mineralogia*.

*An Abstract of a LETTER from the Reverend Mr. John Hunt, Vicar of Thorp, near Colchester in Essex.*

*July 30th, 1709.*

*Dr. Packe,*

‘ **H**AVING read your *Medela Chymi-*  
 ‘ *ca*, I am much confirm'd in my O-  
 ‘ pinion of the Power of Chymical Prepara-  
 ‘ tions ; and am much persuaded you have  
 found



' found out such as are most Proper for the  
 ' general prevailing Maladies of your Coun-  
 ' try Meu. I have a great Desire to try your  
 ' Medicine for the Scurvy, with which I  
 ' have been afflicted these three Years, tho'  
 ' not to a violent Degree; but within this  
 ' twelve Month have had more grievous  
 ' Symptoms; as a Pain in the Knee, with  
 ' Urine as black almost as luk, which Ri-  
 ' verus from *Eugallenus* observes proceeds  
 ' from a Scorbutic Cause; and now I am  
 ' much troubled with an Itching (especially  
 ' when I undress) all o're my Body, which  
 ' is very troublsome. I had sent at this  
 ' Time for a certain Quantity of your *Sal So-*  
 ' *lutivum*, with Money for that and your  
 ' *Elixir Antiscorbuticum*; but I was first will-  
 ' ing to know whether you receiv'd this  
 ' safe, and to have a Line from you; after  
 ' which, I shall enclose half a Guinea in a  
 ' Letter, for a certain Quantity of your Me-  
 ' dicines, humbly begging you will be plea-  
 ' sed to assure me of the Receipt of this;  
 ' and that if I send Money, you will send  
 ' what I write for, to

*Your Hum. Ser.*

J. HUNT.

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The 26th of August following, he sent half a Guinea; and had returned *Sal Solutum*, eight Ounces, and *Elix: Antilcorbuticum*, half an Ounce, to be taken as directed above.

The following came Novemb. 3d, 1709.

Dr. Hacke,

IF you received the inclosed half Guinea, I desire you would send what further you think proper. I must say, I think your Medicines do answer their Character: I am very much the better for what I have taken; but having not continued it regularly and long enough, I find there is Occasion to renew them, or proceed with your *Species Universalis* and *Tinctura Metallica*, which you think fit. The greatest Trouble I now have, is my Gums, which are very sore, and half eat away in some Parts; therefore hope you will let me have some more of your *Aqua Phagadenica* (having applied all I had before to another Use) I have a little Boy aged about five Years, on whose Body the *Chrystalls* did not work so freely as usual, tho' he took three Ounces; nevertheless they did him Abundance of Good; for at this Time of the Year, 'tis usual for him to have his Head break out all over, which was now begun; besides which, he came out with Pusles and little Scabs on the Body, which



' which I believe to be the *Scurvy*, and tha  
 ' your *Sal Solutivum* would help him : H  
 ' used it three Weeks together, and the *Aq*  
 ' *Phagadenica* outwardly ; all the Sores an  
 ' Scabs dry'd up and fell off in Scales, an  
 ' he is now intirely free from any the leas  
 ' breaking out, Sore or Itching. I had al  
 ' most forgot to tell you that the Pain in m  
 ' Knee, and Blacknels of Urine are intirel  
 ' vanish'd, and the Itching is not comparabl  
 ' to what it was : I have nothing further to  
 ' acquaint you with, or ask of you, than  
 ' that you would be pleas'd to send the fol  
 ' lowing (the first Opportunity) by the King's  
 ' Arms Coach, in *Leadenhall-street*, to

Your Friend and Servant,  
 JOHN HUNT.



Jan. 19th, 1702.

SIR,

' I Received yours with the Bottle of *Aq*.  
 ' *Phagadenica*, and took 'em as directed,  
 ' of the Success of which I shall now give  
 ' you an Account. My Willingness to hus-  
 ' band so small a Quantity of the Water,  
 ' put me not only upon washing my Mouth  
 ' as you ordered, but dipping little Pledgets  
 ' of Lint in the Water, and putting them by  
 ' a Quill between those Teeth, from which  
 ' I perceived the ill Smell to come, which  
 ' was with good Effect, though slow; for by  
 ' that Time two thirds of my Bottle were  
 E 3 ' spent,

spent, I had not overcome that ill Smell  
 in more than the two further Teeth of my  
 upper and lower Jaw: The rest I was obliged  
 to reserve for a Sore in one of my Child-  
 ren's Legs, left by the Itch, which suffic'd  
 for the Cure of that. I resolv'd to apply  
 your *Tincture of Myrrh*, as I had done the  
 Water between every Tooth, both of the  
 lower and upper Jaw: by this Means I  
 easily discover'd where the Gums were  
 most vitiated, which I found to be much  
 more than I suspected. I discover'd upon  
 some Teeth (just at the closing of the Bone  
 and Gum) a darkish strong Matter, which  
 after some Difficulty, I scrap'd off with the  
 Point of a Pen-knife: It seem'd very like  
 the Tartar of *Urine* and (when pulveriz'd)  
 had a urinaceous Smell, and so I found se-  
 veral of the little Pledgets, after the Ex-  
 crementitious Flavour had been overcome  
 to smell more like new *Urine*, than any  
 thing else. Now 'tis no Surprize to me  
 that any thing of the *Urine* should come  
 there, nor that the *Urine* should after some  
 Time acquire any Excrementitious Smell  
 having been fully convinc'd of these Truths  
 for some time; by *Matter of Fact*, you will  
 I believe, *Dr.* upon these Observations  
 (which may be depended upon, I think)  
 pronounce the Fault of the Breath to be  
 only in the Gums, and that occasion'd by  
 some Defect in the Secretory Functions  
 which Fault, (to finish this Digression  
 ' you the



' your Medicines and Advice (by the Bless-  
 ' ing of God) have happily amended, for  
 ' my Teeth and Gums are now firm and  
 ' tight, and no longer infested with that  
 ' stinking calculous Matter, since I clear'd  
 ' them of it (which is now three Weeks  
 ' since) and all the other Symptoms in the  
 ' other Parts, are totally vanish'd: However,  
 ' I should be very willing to continue my  
 ' Medicines a Month or six Weeks longer,  
 ' which I intirely submit to your Judgement  
 ' and Discretion; for the great Experience  
 ' of your *Tinctura Metallica*, and *Species Uni-*  
 ' *versalis* (which are indeed peculiarly assist-  
 ' ing to Nature, in the making its regular  
 ' and necessary Separations) makes me have  
 ' a great Esteem for them.

' I have now Dr. no further to add, but to  
 ' ask your Pardon for this long Letter, and  
 ' to assure you, that for whatever Medicines  
 ' you send down, you shall be very honestly  
 ' and faithfully paid, by Sir,

*Your most humble Servant,*

JOHN HUNT.

In the next Letter, which was about three  
 Months after this, he declares himself clear  
 of any Scorbutic Symptoms, that he had  
 taken all the Medicines, and adds, that be-  
 fore the first taking of these Medicines, he  
 was frequently attack'd with sharp fits of the  
 Gravel, at which time, several white Blisters  
 would rise up about his Body; but since he  
 took them, he has not the least Symptom of  
 the Gravel.

*Abstract*

*Abstract of a Letter from Dr. Francis Brayne  
dated April 1709.*

‘ **T** H E 12<sup>th</sup> of March 1709, a Gentle  
 ‘ man committed his Son to my Care  
 ‘ for the *Evil*, which he had labour’d under  
 ‘ for six Years past, and try’d several sorts of  
 ‘ Remedies (among which, one was the stro-  
 ‘ king of a certain Famous seventh Son) but  
 ‘ all to little Purpose; for the Symptoms  
 ‘ would return with full Strength, namely  
 ‘ the Swelling of his Lip, to an excessive  
 ‘ Magnitude and very hard, his Right Eye  
 ‘ very much swell’d and inflam’d (as were  
 ‘ both his Nostrils) his Countenance pale  
 ‘ and muddy.

‘ The first and second Day he took three  
 ‘ Doses of *Sal Solutivum* in a Liqueurise De-  
 ‘ coction; and the third Day a Pill of *Astruc-*  
 ‘ *Mercurii*, two Gr the fourth Day three Pills  
 ‘ the fifth Day four Pills, the sixth Day  
 ‘ Dose of *Sal Solutivum* in the Decoction, the  
 ‘ seventh Day two Pills of four Grains each  
 ‘ the eighth Day two Pills of three Grains  
 ‘ each, and so continued at six Grains a day  
 ‘ till the twentieth day; after which, I gav  
 ‘ him one Day, one Pill, and another day  
 ‘ two Pills of three Grains each, till the  
 ‘ Month was completed; at about a Fort-  
 ‘ night’s End, his Lip began to abate of the  
 ‘ Swelling, and the Sores in the Nostrils  
 ‘ heal; his Eye also began to amend. The

‘ Medicin



Medicine always work'd by Stool with him viz. three or four Stools a day, two Nights only by Sweat, but never offer'd to salivate or give the least Disturbance to his Stomach. To help to divert the great Afflux of the *Lympha* to the Eye, I applied a Plaster of *Pix Burgund.* To the Neck, I also applied to his Face an Ungent made with Tops of Rosemary, one handfull boyl'd with four Ounces of fresh Butter. After the Month's End, I gave daily one Pill of three Grains for a Week, after that, a Dose of *Chrystalls*, then one Pill of two Grains every day, and at the Conclusion two Doses of *Solutive Chrystalls*. These perfected the Cure, for his fore swell'd Eye was as well and as clear as the other; his Nostrils healed, and Lips softned and reduced, and his Complexion wholly chang'd to be clear and ruddy.

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A Letter from Mr. Thomas Kerrich Apothecary in Harlestone, Norfolk.

S I R,

Nov. 23d, 1710.

I Have a Patient of a Sanguine Complexion and a full Habit of Body, complains of an approaching *Fistula* in *Ano*. The Signs that cause his Suspicion, are extreme itching, with a continual Gleet from the Part; he is aged about 55. Now Sir, I not being much acquainted with Surgery; yet having some Encouragement from the good Effects I have found in the Tryal of your  
 ' Medicines

' *Medicines*, have undertaken this Patient  
 ' and intend to put him into a Course of  
 ' *Solutivum cum Sulphure Veneris*, and *Astrum*  
 ' *Mercurii*, alternately. I crave your Opinion  
 ' and further Advice about it: He has had  
 ' it upon him ever since *Christmas* last, but  
 ' never applied himself for Cure till now.  
 ' I think to use the *Aqua Phagadenica* exter-  
 ' nally, as directed in your *Medela Chymica*.  
 ' He is a Man of sober Conversation, and my  
 ' very good Friend; therefore would have  
 ' your Opinion of the Case: The Cause of  
 ' this his Trouble, I suppose, proceeds from  
 ' the External *Piles*, which he is mightily  
 ' subject to. I desire you to send *Astrum*  
 ' *Mercurii*, two Drams; which is all I  
 ' present, from

*Yours to command,*

THO. KERRICH

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*Harlestone, April 12th, 1711*

S I R,

' I Have made a Cure of the Person I men-  
 ' tioned in my last, with the *Fistula*  
 ' *Ano*, with the Use of your *Sal Solutivum*  
 ' *cum Sulphure Veneris* and *Astrum Mercurii*.  
 ' I must needs add, that all your *Medicines*,  
 ' have yet made use of) answer all the In-  
 ' tentions that can be desired from such small  
 ' Doses, and 'tis great Pity the Art of making  
 ' such useful Medicines should die with



the *Author*. But I hope Sir, you will be so charitable to Posterity, as to prevent that.

I am,

Your humble Servant,

Thomas Kerrich.



*Abstract of a Letter from the Rev. Mr. George Fetherstonhaugh, Rector of Bintry, Norfolk.*

Bintry, June 15th, 1710.

A Man near thirty five Years old, was above twelve Months since, from taking a Cold, seiz'd with great Pain on one Side of his Neck, reaching up to his left Ear, which after some time turned into a *Catarrh* or Destillation upon his Lungs, that Organ by the Sound of the Coughing seeming to be dry ; for though his Cough was pretty frequent, yet nothing was expectorated. At length the *Catarrh* devolv'd to his Stomach, and there weakning its concoctive Faculty, his Flesh soon fell away. Hereupon he had Recourse to me for Advice. Examining into the Cause, I adjudg'd it to be a Destillation from the Brain, and whereupon I advis'd him in the first Place to let Issue in his Arm, and to have his Head lay'd, then cover'd with a Quilt of Cepha-ics, sewed into a Cap. I likewise bathed the Neck and pained Part of the Head with  
' your

your *Powers of Amber and Lavender* several  
 Times. During these Things, I omitted  
 not inward Help, as well to fortify Parts  
 as to allure Sleep, which at this time began  
 to forsake him. Now tho' those Potestates  
 did mitigate his Pains for the present, yet  
 in a few Hours they would return again.  
 Besides this, notwithstanding all I had at-  
 tempted for altering the Styptic sharp Hu-  
 mour, his Cough was very little abated.  
 Tho' he had us'd *Lubricating Pectorals*  
 gentle Purging Potions, and other Liquors  
 proper in his Case, as Juleps of *Cephalic* and  
 Pectoral Waters, the *Balsam* and Flowers  
 of *Benjamin*, with the *Balsamic Syrup* &c.  
 Those would relieve him for a little time  
 but still his Cough continu'd. At length  
 his Eyes began to be watery and very sore  
 upon which I try'd what a Blister applic'd  
 to the Head would do, but perceived little  
 or no Benefit from that: However, I con-  
 cluded that his Blood too much abounded  
 with the Serum; therefore I ordered the  
*Sal Solutivum* to be given him in Barley  
 Water, Morning and Night, three Drams  
 at a time for five or six Days, by which  
 time his Cough was lessened and his Ap-  
 petite to Food very well restored. Much  
 Joy there was for this. A Fortnight after-  
 wards he came to me again, to inform me  
 that his Cough began again as before; his  
 Appetite beginning to decline, and his Bel-  
 costive. I advis'd him to repeat the Use



' the *Chryſtals* as before. 'Twas done, and  
 ' a like Effect ſucceeded, with more viſible  
 ' and durable Advantages than at firſt, to  
 ' the Admiration of many who ſaw it. For  
 ' it's now two Months ſince he took his  
 ' laſt Doſe, the Cough is entirely removed ;  
 ' the Iſſue runs freely ; his Appetite is whol-  
 ' ly reſtored ; his Fleſh reeovered ; his Eyes  
 ' clear and dry, and whatever we wiſhed for  
 ' answered to our Comfort. Upon this Bleſ-  
 ' ſing of the divine Goodneſs upon our En-  
 ' deavours, for the Relief of our miſerable  
 ' Neighbour,

I congratulate You, good *Dr.*

And remain your affectionate  
 Friend and Servant,

*George Fetherſtenhaugh.*



*A Letter of Dr. Bettſworth's of Bath, to Mr.  
 Baſſet Apothecary there.*

*My Eſteemed Friend,*

I Have at laſt received an Account of  
 thoſe more noble and admirable Me-  
 dicines ; a Catalogue whereof I have ſent  
 thee, with the Quantities I'd have you  
 write for this Poſt, becauſe we want ſome  
 F of

of them. They are indeed in small Quan-  
 tities ; but as their *Doses* are small, their  
*Virtues* are powerful ; innocent in Opera-  
 tion, admirable in their Effects. I had al-  
 most forgot another Medicine that will of-  
 ten come into Use, which pray omit not ;  
 it is *Sal Solutivum*. I would not have you  
 neglect the Post, because I do actually stand  
 in need of some of these at present. They  
 are a complete Set of Medicines, wanting  
 only *Vehicles* aptly suited to them ;

I am,

Yours to serve you in all the  
 good Offices I am capable,

JOHN BETTESWORTH.



BATH, July 24<sup>th</sup>, 1711.

Dear Dr. Wack,

I Began to use your *Medicines* the 13<sup>th</sup>  
 of the last Month, and have found  
 them successful in several Cases, one of  
 which I think well deserves Notice. The  
 Case was the *Flatus Hypochondriacus* ; the  
 Gentleman aged about 38, of a Studious  
 Inclination, costive Habit, exceedingly  
*Scorbutic*, subject to *Hætic* Disorders, espe-  
 cially as soon as any Food was taken. Ti-  
 worth remarking, that he has not had the  
 usual proper Sensation on the Approach of  
 a Stool (as is common to others, and wa-

to



to himself ) these two Years. I forbear to enumerate many other considerable Symptoms that generally attended this Case. but to tell you a Thing almost incredible ! In the taking no more than three half Ounces of your *Sal Solutivum cum Sulphure Veneris*, and drinking the *Bath Waters* in the Operation thereof, this Gentleman is become a new Man, and that in the Space of seven or eight Days Time. The Symptoms (that are most of them above ten Years standing) are greatly abated, and one of them totally vanished. For a bad, a good Stomach is exchanged, the *Hectic Heat* little or none, the *Flatus* gone, Stools regular, and to his Admiration and mine also, he owns, That the proper Sensation arising from the Impression of the Acrimony of the Choler in his Stool on the *Fibres* of the *Rectum* (which, as I said, was lost) is return'd ; so that now he says, 'tis a Pleasure to him to ease himself. From this and several other Cases, I find the *Salt* agrees far beyond any other thing I have hitherto us'd with the Waters, and there is no room for Comparison between the common *Sal Catharticum, amarum* and *Sal Solutivum*, according to what I have prov'd.

*I am Your hearty Friend*

*and Admirer,*

JOHN BETTESWORTH.